



SILC Meeting November 2, 2016 Teleconference

The meeting was opened by Monique Casbeer at 9:07 AM.

Members Present: Monique Casbeer, Lori Gaustad, Rosemary Hughes, Joe Moll, Tami Hoar, Trinity Martel, Mary Olson

Members Absent/Excused: Allison Smith, Tracey Carlyon, Michelle Williamson.

DSE Staff: Bill Harant, Jim Marks

Guests: Mike Mayer, Tom Osborn, Bob Maffit

A motion to approve the August Minutes was requested. The motion was made and seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

DSE Update: Jim Marks provided the update on the DSE. WIOA has been having a great effect on Vocational Rehabilitation Blind Services (VRBS). It mandated over 100 changes to VRBS services. This has created tremendous challenges for VRBS. The three main areas of change are in youth transitions, cooperation with the Department of Labor and Industry and the Office of Public Instruction, and in competitive integrated employment. Jim went on to talk about WIOA Section 511 and the competitive integrated employment philosophy stating "If you believe someone can do a job they will do it. If you believe they can't do a job, then they won't." He also emphasized that those under age 24 cannot work for sub-minimum wage unless they have gone through the VR process. The Department of Justice has ruled that people can't be shifted from sheltered workshops and sub-minimum wage into day treatment centers.

The standards and indicators for VR are being changed to a combined set of standards and indicators for VR, Labor and Industry and Adult Basic Education. Previously reports were required annually, they are now required quarterly.

As the final rules go into effect RSA is tightening up on how they will be interpreted, killing innovation and opportunity.



As of now 90 out of the 170 school districts in the state have Pre-ETS contracts with VR. Pre-ETS has had an impact on the VRBS budget. VRBS is estimated to be \$3 million over budget. The 15% requirement for youth services has been the principle reason for this. As an example of the Pre-ETS expenditures, the Billings area school districts have received over \$250,000 in funding.

Categories 2&3 have been closed and VR is anticipating the closing of Category 1 soon as a result of these budget overruns. These closures are mandated by federal law.

Montana is one of the few VR agencies that have traditionally spent all its funding. Nationally it has been shown that VR has traditionally been underfunded.

Even if all the VR categories are closed, students can still be signed up for services under Pre-ETS, however they must do this first before applying for VR services.

Jim went on to explain the changes to sub-minimum wage that Section 511 of WIOA is bringing. One of the things that will be required is that everyone earning sub-minimum wage under a 14(c) Certificate will have to be interviewed and provided career counseling and information and referral twice in their first year of employment, at 6 months and again at 12 months then annually thereafter. The DSE is hoping to contract with the centers for independent living to conduct these interviews.

With the legislative session coming up Jim explained the Executive Planning Process (EPP) for the state budget. The DSE is expecting no changes in the EPP. At best the budget will stay the same as it has been during this biennium, at worse it will be a cut session. This is dependent upon the election results.

Budget: Bill reported that the 2016 budget has been spent down in its entirety. He hasn't received the final report from the fiscal analyst yet and so did not provide a copy.

Business Update:

Rehabilitation Council Report: There was no report from the Rehabilitation Council as Tom's membership has expired. Tami Hoar will be the next SILC representative on that council. Shawn Tulloch will be contacted for details about making this change.

APRIL: Mary reported that APRIL had just completed its annual conference. It was held in Reno, NV this year. Over 360 people attended the conference. There were over 60 registered youth as



well as youth from two Reno high schools. Info from this year's conference should be on APRIL's website by November 4th. Next year the conference will be in Spokane, WA.

APRIL is gearing up for the SILC Congress in January. They will be putting on several presentations. They are also working on a manual for SILCs, setting up their monthly webinars for 2017 and lots of other stuff. If anyone has any webinar ideas, please forward them to Mary.

NCIL: Tami reported that NICL has been sending out Action Alerts about IL funding. They have also provided info about the recently released WIOA final rules which went into effect at the end of October. Additionally there will not be any changes to the 704 report this year, but it is hoped that its format will be updated by the end of next year. ACL director Bob Williams has asked for questions and suggestions on the 704 Report be sent to him. The 704 submission deadline for this year has been extended to the end of January. ACL is also planning a series of conversations about IL issues. The next NCIL board meeting will be in Oakland, CA. They will be touring the Ed Roberts Center.

Mary mentioned that NIDILRR is also seeking feedback. She will forward their questions to Bill for distribution.

MYLF/MYT: 20 youth participated in the Conference this summer. MYLF Minis have begun. The first was held in Glendive. 6 students participated. The next one will be held in Polson after the MY Transitions Conference in November. Due to an overwhelming response registrations for the MY Transitions conference have been closed as they are at capacity. Over 320 registrations have been received. Training for Youth, Families, and Self-directed IEPs will also be continuing. Additionally students are continuing to be referred to VR. The regional transitions groups have also been working with employers on youth transitions.

CIL REPORTS

LIFTT: Tami reported that not much new is going on at LIFTT. They are anticipating getting started on the Section 511 Contract. They are continuing with some structural changes in the way they do business. Community outreach is continuing as are the Peer Support Groups. They are also offering their community room to others for meeting and such.

NCILS: Tom reported that not much new is going on at NCILS either. They continue their regular activities. Staff has been going out to schools with their History and Culture of Independent Living program. The Living Well with a Disability classes are doing well. The monthly legislative



days have been opened up to local politicians and are proving popular. A recent one had 18 consumers participate. They are beginning to prepare for the Section 511 contracts. Easter Seals has contacted them with questions about youth and Section 511. Tom was able to tell them that youth would have to meet different criteria than adults over age 24.

MILP: Bob Reported that lots has been happening at MILP. They are wrapping up the gardening project they had with youth this summer for Pre-ETS. They are working on other youth issues. The transportation accessible van is now available and will be operated by Helena Taxi Service. They have received a grant for vouchers for weekend and evening transportation services. They continue their work on other transportation issues within their region and statewide. MILP staff are also involved with housing accessibility issues and a number of community outreach projects.

Summit: Mike reported that Summit staff has been working with schools teaching BALLS, soft skills, and other activities. They will again be teaching semester long transition classes in Hamilton and Saint Ignatius. They will be offering other transition related classes on site. Their community outreach and peer supports continue. Summit is working with ASPIRE students to provide self-determination training. They have received a Walmart grant to provide year-long job shadowing; mentoring and other youth transition training. In Missoula they continue working to resolve accessible parking issues. During the second week in November Summit will hold an event with elected officials to explain and promote IL issues. They are also planning on working with DPHHS Senior and Long Term Care Division to provide info on services related to Medicare and Medicaid. Several new staff have been hired in IL services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: There is little to report. They have been following up on issues from the August SILC meeting.

Competitive Integrated Employment Committee: Not much to report. Easter Seals is excited about the Section 511 interviews. They have invited Ellen Condon to speak to the committee about competitive integrated employment (CIE) issues she has been working on. Jim Marks suggested that the committee begin talking to employers about the shift to CIE and to coach them as they begin making the shift. Employers holding a 14(c) certificate have been sent a letter from the Department of Justice regarding moving sub-minimum wage employees into day treatment centers (see his comments above).



Education and Public Relations Committee: Has nothing to report. Bill has received SILC 2000 brochures which are in his office and available for distribution.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey: They have been working hard on the survey to gather some additional information and make it more accessible to those with cognitive disabilities. Bill has been collecting mailing labels from the CILS along with consumer emails in order to capture as many as possible in the survey. The survey will again be provided in a hard format as well as through Survey Monkey.

SPIL Evaluation Committee: The meeting time for this committee may possibly need to be changed as some members are having scheduling conflicts. Bill explained the purpose of this committee. It will also be incorporating the SILC standards and indicators into its work when they are published by ACL. Tami suggested setting up the meetings further out from their dates so that members can get them on their calendars.

Nominations Committee: The committee has received two applications (Mitchell McCabe and Barbara Davis). Motions were made to accept these nominations and were approved. Their names will be submitted to the Governor's office through Jim Marks.

Meetings: Discussion was held to schedule the August 16, 2017 meeting at a location other than Helena. Lori suggested Billings. Monique suggested Missoula. A motion was made to hold the meeting in Billings. This motion was passed and it was decided to hold the meeting at LIFTT. Tami suggested that some outreach be done prior to the meeting and that a reception be held after the meeting to allow community members to get to know the SILC. It was also suggested to move the August meeting dates to the 17th and 18th with the 16th being a travel day for those coming from the western side of the state. Further discussion was held about recruiting from the Native American communities and colleges. Bill has attempted to reach out through the 121 coordinators without any luck.

The meeting paused for lunch from 11:30-12:30.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Legislative Advocacy Task Force: They have been busy planning for Legislative Day. A potato bar lunch will again be offered. Tami's husband will provide accessible transportation from the hotel to the Capitol and back. The educational pre-event will be held possibly at the Wingate Hotel. (Note: the venue was changed to the Hampton Inn which is closer to the Capitol) This has



previously been held at the Holiday Inn downtown. They are still working on a packet of talking points for participants. Tom asked about the role that the SILC would play. There is a need to keep lobbyists with other agendas from the event as they steal our time with legislators.

A standing issue the task force has been following is the MDC closure. They are watching the development of state run group homes. An out of state provider has been moving some of the people to their group homes as has an instate provider. There is some concern about the cost plan for the closure and moves.

They are also watching the community settings requirements. The State Transition Plan was submitted to CMS but was not accepted. The state will need to work on it some more to make it acceptable.

Legislation is moving ahead on Mental Health, personal care, Alzheimer and dementia services. The last appears to have been hijacked by assisted living facilities. An interim committee will be working on this bill. Sen. Mary Caffero may sponsor the bill.

Transportation Task Force: met on Friday October 19, 2016 Representatives from Summit ILC- Missoula and Hamilton, LIFTT-Glendive, NCILS- Glasgow, and NCILS – Great Falls joined the call. We discussed what has been happening in each of our communities to our TACS. The communities that participated in the Building Active Communities Initiative place making conference reported on follow up activities.

The Montana Department of Transportation had its fall management training in OCTOBER. REPORTS were given about that meeting. Kristi McLaughlin from Easter Seals Project Action was a keynote speaker session s highlighted civil rights, ADA, and service animals. Providers will be given training on web grants, transit asset management and coordination planning in November.

Mr. Northcutt from NCILS has been talking with legislators on a motorcycle helmet law. He gave the following update. Representatives Jean Price & Representative McKamey have expressed interest.

Bobbie Becker at LIFTT is seeking information on TACs and transportation for the community of Miles City.

Joel Peden will be reaching out to MTA or the Montana Transit Association regarding TransADE which is monies specifically designated for senior and disabled transportation Last session monies were dedicated to the TransADE account from taxes or fees paid as a person rented a rental car. Mr. Peden will be reaching out to MTA to tweak language in TransADE to asset that 10% of all funds collected moving forward if passed will be able to assist new projects/startups.



No consensus was reached by the task force as it is understood that the directors must discuss.

Next meeting November 16 2016

Self-determination Task Force: They have been discussing a number of issues. Waiver teams are one issue of concern as are direct care-giver wages. Another concern is the Medicaid spend-down. They are also working on ways that the Housing Bridge can be renewed. They will need to work with the Department of Commerce on this. Gaining matching funds for accessible play grounds have also been discussed. A number of other items have been put on hold until after the election. Travis Hoffman has been working on talking points for Legislative Day.

Youth and Employment Task Force: They are following the youth graduation bill which was killed during the last legislative session. It may be a placeholder bill by a Great Falls legislator.

Community Living Task Force: They are restructuring and hope to be back up and running soon.

Other Business: Mary was asked if training could be provided about talking with Legislators. This could possibly be set up for January. She will research and send information to the SILC.

Bill asked if any member would like to attend the SILC Congress which will be held January 17-20. Tami Hoar volunteered. Bill will get her registration information.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2:30.